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# AGAWAM

## ADVERTISER NEWS

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## Testing for residents set for Dec. 21

By Shelby Macri  
[smacri@turley.com](mailto:smacri@turley.com)

AGAWAM – There will be a COVID-19 testing site in Agawam next week, where residents, students, and town employees can get tested for free. The drive-thru testing site will be on Monday, Dec. 21 and will take place at Six Flags New England.

The entrance to the parking lot that has the foot bridge will be the entrance for the drive-thru testing, which will be administered by the American Medical Response. AMR runs the testing site at Eastfield Mall in Springfield. The town testing will be held on one day from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., and the cars in at 6 p.m. will be the last car of the day.

“It’s very expensive to pay for even one day, so it’s hard to decide when to cut it off,” Mayor William Sapelli said. “It’s important to get testing right now and I know that, but we have to end it at some point so when we close for the night that’ll be it.”

The testing is free and doesn’t require an appointment, recommendation, or even shown symptoms, but the town is asking that people pre-register for the testing. There is a link on the town website to sign up for the testing.

“We strongly encourage people to register beforehand online, there will be an opportunity to sign up in line but it’ll be easier by registering,” Sapelli said. “People should be patient and be prepared to wait maybe a few

TESTING | page 2

Six Flags New England will be the test site for Agawam residents. Any resident or town employee can get a COVID-19 test there on Monday, Dec. 21 between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



## False positive for mayor, but town hall closed temporarily

By Shelby Macri  
[smacri@turley.com](mailto:smacri@turley.com)

AGAWAM – Last week, Agawam Town Hall had three suspected cases of COVID-19. Town employees were diligent in being aware of their possible status and quarantining from Town Hall.

One of the suspected cases was Mayor William Sapelli, who received a false positive.

On Saturday, Dec. 5 Sapelli got a rapid COVID-19 test that was positive. As a result, he quarantined the rest of the weekend and the following week.

“I quarantined like I was supposed to, but I didn’t have any symptoms,” the mayor said. “I didn’t have a loss of taste, no cough, no sore throat, I wasn’t tired, and it didn’t make sense. They said I could be asymptomatic.”

TOWN HALL | page 2

## Marijuana manufacturing approved through ordinance change

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
[gscibelli@turley.com](mailto:gscibelli@turley.com)

AGAWAM – The Agawam City Council has passed a major ordinance change and will allow the manufacturing of marijuana products in town.

The ordinance change was sought as a means of creating more tax revenue, specifically in the case of Debilitating Medication Conditions Treatment Center, Inc. The company runs a medical marijuana dispensary, but needs recreational manufacturing to sustain its business.

If the dispensary opens, it would only be for medical dispensing as Agawam voters have rejected recreational sales.

The business is supposed to make annual payments of \$150,000 to the town or three percent of its revenue. The tax revenue would significantly increase if the business was able to manufacture marijuana.

The council favored the ordinance change 9-1, and there was no public comment during a hearing held at the Dec. 7 Agawam City Council meeting.

The lone dissent was Agawam City Councilor George Bitzas, who cited his personal beliefs

against marijuana. He said while the revenue coming from the now-legal drug is excellent, he believes the ordinance change is wrong and also goes against the voters’ desire to keep marijuana out of the town.

“I know some people think the money is good,” said Bitzas. “But the people of Agawam voted against this. Now we go around them and vote for wholesale. That bothers me. I just don’t want to see Agawam sell these drugs. I just don’t feel supporting something I don’t like. This is my personal belief.”

Council President Christopher Johnson countered Bitzas, saying the ordinance change has nothing to do with the ballot question that went in front of the voters.

“This is about manufacturing,” said Johnson. “We often sit up here saying we have to look for other sources of revenue. This is a perfect opportunity. This would allow for the manufacturing of marijuana, but not the retail sales. There would be no retail sales of recreational marijuana in Agawam. I think it’s incumbent on us, and I did not favor the legalization of marijuana, I think it’s foolish on the part of the town to

MARIJUANA | page 3

## Hockey team collects toys for charity



The socially-distanced Agawam High School hockey team gathers outside the high school to collect toys two weeks ago. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

AGAWAM – The Agawam High School ice hockey team gathered for their annual toy drive despite the challenges of COVID-19. A drive was held on Dec. 7 and all donations made were given to the Pioneer Valley Realtors Association to be distributed to children in need during the holiday season. The toy drive is a regular event for the team, which still wanted to participate this year despite the challenges of the pandemic.



The team filled Sue Drumm’s vehicle with toy donations. The team appreciates all who came out to make donations.



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## Eucharistic Adoration at St. John's

AGAWAM – All are welcome and invited to join us at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, for Eucharistic Adoration, Wednesdays, 12 noon to 5:45 p.m. with Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m. Come and spend some time in quiet prayer with our Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Eucharist.

AGAWAM – The Agawam Cultural Council is pleased to announce that a special, bonus performance of its popular Applause Series has been added to the season lineup. Joy to the World – Holiday Music for Classical Guitar and Mandolin, a previously recorded concert of enchanting instrumental renditions of traditional and contemporary holiday music by accomplished musicians Judy Handler & Mark Levesque will be presented for online viewing on Dec. 24 and 25.

The concert, originally recorded in 2013 as part of the Applause Series' tenth season, will be broadcast on the Town of Agawam's public access channel (Agawam TV15) at 7 p.m. on Dec. 24, and 2 p.m. on Dec. 25, and streamed from the "Watch" button on [www.agawammedia.tv](http://www.agawammedia.tv) at those times for those residing outside of Agawam. Anyone wishing to watch on a smart device at a different time should email [r.kadis@comcast.net](mailto:r.kadis@comcast.net) for a link to the showing. The performance will also be available on the Agawam Cultural Council YouTube channel at 6:15 p.m. on Dec. 24.

Handler & Levesque have proved popular with local audiences, appearing on the Applause Series stage several times since the inception of series. Handler, on guitar, and Levesque, on mandolin, guitar, and cuatro, bring a variety of lively music and lyrical melodies from the United States, Puerto Rico, England, Wales, Ireland, France, Italy, Ireland, and Eastern Europe. The duo has performed over 2,000 concerts together throughout New England, the Midwest and

Europe. Their CDs have received critical acclaim and have been sold in dozens of countries worldwide. Handler & Levesque have also been featured on numerous compilation CDs with other artists and many radio and cable TV programs. Their CD "Joy to the World" was released in 2019 and is available for purchase by contacting them at [guitarduo@comcast.net](mailto:guitarduo@comcast.net) or visiting their website: [www.judyandmark.com](http://www.judyandmark.com).

In lieu of the free will donations the Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) normally accepts at the conclusion of all its events, (which support fully 40 percent of the cost of each performance), the council asks viewers to consider making a properly "socially distanced" donation to support efforts to "Give Back to the Community" by visiting the ACC web site [www.agawamcc.org](http://www.agawamcc.org) and clicking on the green "Donate" button. A check in any amount, payable to the Agawam Cultural Council, may also be sent to: Agawam Cultural Council, Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam MA 01001.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during the stay-at-home order, please visit their web site, [www.agawamcc.org](http://www.agawamcc.org). The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.



The Agawam Cultural Council has added a bonus holiday presentation to its popular Applause Series. Musicians Judy Handler, left, and Mark Levesque will present Joy to the World – Holiday Music for Classical Guitar and Mandolin, to be broadcast on the Town of Agawam's public access channel and streamed at 7 p.m. on Dec. 24, and 2 p.m. on Dec. 25. SUBMITTED PHOTO

### TESTING ■ from page 1

hours, there won't be bathrooms available either so people will have to be ready."

Sapelli said testing in town but because the cost is so expensive and they could only hold it for one day, so he and a team decided on holding it after the holiday influx of Thanksgiving but before Christmas for people wanting to visit families. The town's procurement officer, Jennifer Bonfiglio helped to coordinate and organize the test site, she worked closely with the mayor and AMR on when to hold the testing. The site was originally planned for this week but due to upcoming weather they decided to push it to Dec. 21 to be safe.

"The health director put me in charge of this project and we contacted AMR after Thanksgiving, it took about two weeks to set the test site up," Bonfiglio said. "AMR explained that many other towns are doing testing too so it takes time to gather employees, but they're very appreciative of the location we have at Six Flags."

The gates for testing will open at 12 p.m. but testing won't start until 1 p.m., cars will check in with the employees from the fire department to verify that they're either residents, town employee's, or Agawam students; a school or town I.D. and state I.D.'s will be accepted for verification.

Sapelli expressed that everyone has been cooperative from Six Flags to AMR,

he also mentioned that Bonfiglio spearheaded this and she's done an amazing job. Six flags will provide signage in the parking lot the explains the registration process, and how to go through the testing site. it will be a one way site where people enter at 1623 Main Street and they will go through the parking lot to an exit to a different part of Main Street. The town is trying to keep people as separate as possible.

Once people are tested, they should contact AMR for their results. AMR is doing the testing and the town is not involved at that point. The group estimates that tests come back within 72 hours, if people do not receive their results by then they can email AMR. The group asks that people only email them if they've waited the suggested 72 hours for results. People are advised not to contact the town about results because they will be unable to answer their questions. People can email [spfildcovidresults@gmail.com](mailto:spfildcovidresults@gmail.com)

Residents can find the registration form on the town website, where they can also find other COVID-19 information. There are weekly reports and cases that are recorded are listed for the public, the town officials are advising Agawam residents, town employees, and students to take advantage of this free testing while they can because numbers are suspected to rise during the holidays and it's better to be safe.

### TOWN HALL ■ from page 1

ic, and I said, 'okay but let's be sure.' When they did the PCR test it was negative."

Sapelli stayed home last weekend, but went back to the office on Monday, Dec. 14 as he was negative and did not have COVID-19.

Sapelli said that it was explained to him that the rapid test looks at antibodies and can be from the area you were around, where the PCR test analyses ones DNA and looks deeper to get a more accurate result. "I never had it and I spent a whole week in quarantine. I got my second test late on Thursday the tenth and staid in quarantine the rest of that weekend," Sapelli said "It's good to be back in office but I have a lot to get done."

When more cases were suspected last week, town hall had to be shut down and town employees went remote to stay safe. A cleaning crew was also brought in during that time. There is a deep-cleaning and disinfecting crew, but they cleaned deeper and more areas, they focused on the whole building beside high points. With the other cases they were people who work in separate offices with no interaction between each other, and the cases occurred a week after each other rather than together. Sapelli explained that the town hall was

quick to switch to remote as needed and erase the threat of infection the minute it's a possibility.

Sapelli is back in office now and encourages residents to look at the town website for any information about COVID-19 cases numbers or testing. The town hall is open by appointment only again. There is information on the website for each department and how to make an appointment if someone needs to see specific departments in person.

"We have a very user-friendly website and people can pay their taxes and bills online, if they need to see someone in person about permit or similar issues with the tax collector, they can call to make an appointment," Sapelli said.

The town hall phone system has a message that interacts residents on making an appointment as well, though the town hall is adapting to online functions. Sapelli explained that the town hall was able to go fully remote because they have the equipment and systems to do so, for a little while at least. He admitted that full remote for an extended time would not suit the town well, but for the short amount of time that it was remote the staff handled it well. For more information for town hall functions people can call or visit the town online.

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# Discount tickets available for 2021 Big E

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Give the gift of fair fun in 2021 and put The Big E under the tree.

Big E advance discount tickets, Value Passes, and Midway and Cream Puff vouchers are available for sale, just in time for holiday giving!

Get your tickets to the 2021 Big E, which takes place Sept. 17 to Oct. 3, online at TheBigE.com and at the Box Office, which is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday through Dec. 23.

Ticket options available are:

Single Day admission tickets – \$12 adults/\$8 children 6-12

17-Day Value Passes – \$40 adults/\$20 children age 6-12. This offer includes four

FREE Giant Slide tickets for each Value Pass sold.

Opening Day tickets (good for use on Sept. 17 only) – \$10

Midway Magic Vouchers – \$25

Six-pack of Big E Cream Puffs - \$25

All tickets, passes and vouchers are “print at home” documents, making the gift a perfect last-minute shopping option. To learn more, visit [www.TheBigE.com/holidaytickets](http://www.TheBigE.com/holidaytickets).

The 2021 Big E will be jam-packed with food, entertainment, and so much more! Visit [TheBigE.com](http://TheBigE.com) to sign up for emails and connect on social media to be the first to receive exclusive information.

## Tree collection set for first week of 2021

AGAWAM – The Department of Public Works is pleased to announce that Republic Services will be providing a collection of Christmas Trees during the week of January 4th – 8th.

\*Christmas trees will be collected on the same day as scheduled trash collection. Please be aware that the regular trash truck will not be collecting trees, a separate truck will be running for the collection of trees.

\*Christmas trees 7’ or larger must be cut in half and placed on the tree belt no earlier than 7am of the collection day listed above.

\*Trees in plastic bags will not be collected.

\*It is not the responsibility of the hauler to dig out trees buried in the snow due to plowing or excessive snowfall prior to the scheduled collection days.

\*In the event of a snow delay during the scheduled collection week, residents should make alternative arrangements to recycle their trees at the Bondi’s Island Landfill. Collection routes for trees will not be re-scheduled.

\* Residents may dispose of trees prior to or after the scheduled collection days at the Bondi’s Island Landfill.

## Have Mrs. Claus read to your children

AGAWAM – Join Mrs. Claus via Zoom live as she reads children a story or two, answers questions they might have, and chats about her role as the wife to the most famous man in the world, Santa.

For a \$6 donation each child will receive: an age-appropriate holiday book, a holiday mug with a hot cocoa packet, and a note from Santa. Pick of these items will be at 55 Rowley Street, Agawam, with an arranged time.

This 30-minute Zoom call with Mrs. Claus will happen on Dec. 20 either at 11:00

a.m. or 1:00 p.m. (one time slot only) and is limited to 25 attendees per time slot. Get your entry in soon!

Ways to register/pay:

option #1 - Completed forms mailed to Stories with Mrs. Claus/AJWC P.O. Box 332 Agawam, MA 01001 with checks made out to AJWC (\$6.00 per child).

option #2 - Through the AJWC website <https://www.agawamgfwc.com/> Event page, with Google form link, payment to the AJWC via Venmo @ GFWCAgawamJunior-WomensClub

## Writing contest deadline extended

AGAWAM – The Agawam Cultural Council is sponsoring a writing competition for all Agawam Public School students. The topic is “Facing the Challenges of the Coronavirus - How did you do it?” Entries will be accepted from October 15, 2020 through December 31, 2020, and the winners will be chosen by members of the Agawam Cultural Council. Monetary prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third-place winning entries. The requirements for entry into this competition can be found on the ACC website and by contacting the librarians for each of the schools in Agawam. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jane Augusti at (413) 241-7196 or by email

to: [maryjane.augusti@gmail.com](mailto:maryjane.augusti@gmail.com).

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during the current pandemic stay-at-home order, please visit their web site, at: [www.agawamcc.org](http://www.agawamcc.org).

The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

## Scarf donations sought

AGAWAM – Loaves and Fishes is in desperate need of White socks, Scarves, Hats and Gloves. Most especially since COVID-19 hit us all last March, the number of folks in need of extra help in our communities has increased dramatically. You may bring your generous donations to the

Sacred Heart Parish Center at 1061 Springfield Street in Feeding Hills. There will be a basket in the entry way just as you come through the first set of doors. Donations will be accepted through February 2021. Please call Pastoral Minister Deb Briancesco RN with any questions at 786.8200 ext. 3.

### MARIJUANA ■ from page 1

look away from a significant source of revenue.”

Councilor Paul Cavallo pointed out the federal government is looking at marijuana differently.

“The House of Representatives is looking at this,” said Cavallo. “And is looking at changing the definition of marijuana in terms of being an illegal drug. They are talking about \$200,000 a year. That’s great revenue for us to pick up.”

Cavallo said regardless of opinions about marijuana, the industry could be become very big over the course of many years. In the case of the town, it could reap big rewards in terms of tax revenue.

Councilor Gerry Smith pointed out Debilitating Medical would have pulled out of the community if the ordinance was not approved, resulting in no additional revenue for the town. By approving it, the revenue goes up.



The mobile COVID-19 testing site at HCC will continue operating through March 2021. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Free COVID-19 testing at HCC extended until March 31

HOLYOKE — Free “Stop the Spread” COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended until March 31, 2021, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college’s main campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

HCC has been serving as a “Stop the Spread” drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

The HCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents, and conducted on a first come, first serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>

Please Note: Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations: <https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>

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### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Popular pickup truck
- 4. Profoundly wise men
- 9. Camera company
- 14. Folk singer DiFranco
- 15. Passerine birds
- 16. Plum-shaped fruit used for preserves
- 17. Popular kids channel
- 18. Dodgers’ skipper
- 20. Removes
- 22. The Atlantic is one
- 23. Badgerlike mammal
- 24. Foulness
- 28. Luke’s mentor
- 29. Commercial
- 30. A type of gin
- 31. Temptress
- 33. Shuts in an enclosed space
- 37. Milligram
- 38. Actress Adams
- 39. Strive to equal or match

- 41. Health insurance
- 42. A detective’s source
- 43. Small American rails
- 44. Alfred \_\_, Brit. poet
- 46. Crest of a hill
- 49. Atomic #52
- 50. \_\_ Caesar, comedian
- 51. Breaks apart
- 55. Register formally (Brit. sp.)
- 58. Worker
- 59. Chemical compound
- 60. Disgraced newsman
- 64. Born of
- 65. Chemical substance
- 66. Supernatural powers
- 67. Clothes
- 68. Indy footballers
- 69. Moves forward
- 70. Midway between south and southeast

- 3. Menacing
- 4. Where coaches patrol
- 5. Greek mythological figure
- 6. War-based board game
- 7. Midway between northeast and east
- 8. 18-year period in astronomy
- 9. Mid-century term used to describe Japanese-Americans
- 10. Large bodies of water
- 11. Eurasian ryegrass
- 12. Perform on stage
- 13. Greek island
- 19. 10th month of the year (abbr.)
- 21. One point east of southeast
- 24. Belgian city
- 25. Praise excessively
- 26. River in France

- 27. Edible lily bulbs
- 31. Quarterbacks take them
- 32. Organic compound
- 34. Tears down (Brit.)
- 35. Beloved Hollywood alien
- 36. Unconscious
- 40. Missouri
- 41. Firemen use them
- 45. Pig noise
- 47. Greatly dismay
- 48. Imitator
- 52. Moves by turning over
- 53. Boxing’s GOAT
- 54. Swarms with
- 56. Margarine
- 57. Feudal superior
- 59. As fast as can be done
- 60. Reciprocal of a sine
- 61. Chinese city
- 62. Tell on
- 63. United

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Driver
- 2. Bone cavities

# Opinion

## OUR VIEW

### Will my U.K. pension affect my Social Security?

By Russell Gloor  
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I lived and worked in the United Kingdom prior to coming to the U.S. at age 45, which qualified me for a U.K. State Pension worth the equivalent of about \$740 U.S. dollars per month. Since moving to the U.S. I have contributed to the U.S. Social Security system for 14 years and my estimated U.S. Social Security benefit is \$1,643 per month. I have heard about something called "WEP" and must be honest and say I don't fully understand. Can you provide some advice or references so I can understand what happens to these sums when I retire? I don't have any other pension income, so understanding these numbers is important. FYI, I hold both U.S. and U.K. passports and will retire in the U.S.A. Signed: Blessed from the UK

Dear Blessed: The "WEP" provision you refer to is known as the "Windfall Elimination Provision." It affects anyone who is eligible to collect Social Security benefits, but who also has a pension from another entity (corporation, public agency, or foreign country) which did not participate in the U.S. Social Security program (meaning that SS FICA payroll taxes weren't paid during that employment). WEP will reduce your U.S. Social Security benefit by using a special formula to compute your benefit amount. Generally, the WEP reduction is determined either by the number of years of substantial Social Security covered earnings that you have, or the WEP maximums (one of which is that your U.S. Social Security can't be reduced by more than half of your non-covered pension). With less than 20 years paying into the U.S. system, you will incur one of the maximum WEP reductions.

Something else important to understand is that the current estimate you have from Social Security doesn't include the WEP reduction. That estimate assumes that you will continue to earn at your current level until you reach your full retirement age. You haven't shared your birthdate, but from your email I assume you are now about 60-years-old. I

f you were born in 1959, your full retirement age (FRA) for U.S. Social Security purposes is 66 years and 10 months (if you were born after that your FRA is 67, and if you were born before that subtract 2 months for each year prior to 1959). Your FRA is when you will get your "full" Social Security benefit. If you claim before that (age 62 is the earliest you can claim) your benefit will be reduced (even before WEP), and if you wait beyond your FRA you'll earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) which will increase your benefit amount. DRCs stop at age 70.

Based upon what you've told me, I believe that your WEP reduction will probably be limited to one of the maximums, either half of your monthly U.K. pension, or the maximum for your "eligibility year" (2022?). We don't yet know what the standard maximum WEP reduction for 2022 will be, but for 2020 it is \$480. That is the most that your Social Security benefit could normally be reduced. But if your U.K. pension is about \$740 U.S. Dollars, then your maximum reduction should be about \$370, because the WEP reduction can't be more than half of your non-covered (U.K.) pension. So, your U.S. Social Security benefit of \$1,643 will most likely be reduced by about \$370 to about \$1,303. You will need to contact the U.K. pension system to see if any of your U.K. pension will be offset by your U.S. Social Security benefits.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association, NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org).

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



## Poinsettias appreciate extra TLC

Every Christmas the poinsettia takes the stage, front and center, in grocery and box store displays. The deep red bracts lure buyers to make them part of their holiday decorating. Pretty? For sure, but without proper care, the plant won't have a chance past New Year's Day. Let's learn what we can do to keep this favorite looking its best throughout the holiday season and then some.

It's important that you start off with a healthy plant. Choose a poinsettia with dark green foliage all the way to the soil line. Color should completely cover the bracts on the upper portion of the plant. Avoid plants whose flowers (located in the center of the bracts) show pollen. If pollen is evident, the plant is old. Be wary of those that are displayed in plastic or paper sleeves or even those that are elbow to elbow. Poinsettias need room to spread out, and the longer they are cramped, the more likely it is that their quality will be impacted. Wilted plants are also best avoided, as this may indicate more than dry soil alone.

Poinsettias are cold sensitive. Temperatures under 50 degrees for even a few minutes can damage the plant. Therefore, insert into a bag or protective sleeve for the ride home from the store and do not leave in an unheated car while you run other errands! Once home, position the poinsettia in a location where it will receive indirect light for at least six hours a day. Avoid drafts, warm or cold, and place far enough away from windows to prevent the foliage from touching cold glass. Chances are if you are comfortable inside, your poinsettia will be as well. Temperatures from 65 to 70 degrees during the day to around 55 at night will extend its life.

Check the plant often to see if it needs water. If the soil is dry, water until droplets leak through the drainage holes in the pot. Saucers shouldn't accumulate water. Dump the excess out after each watering so the plant won't reabsorb it and become waterlogged. Soil that remains soaking wet is likely to cause root rot. A visual indication of this irreversible disease is curled, wilting foliage.

Hold off on fertilizing the plant while it is in bloom.

It's unfortunate that few people keep their poinsettias past the holiday season. When I was a kid my Mom succeeded at getting hers to bloom again the following Christmas. Here's what to do if you'd like to try it: In early April cut back the plant to eight inches. Fertilize with an all purpose houseplant fertilizer once a month. New growth should appear by the end of May. After the danger of frost has passed, move the plant outdoors. Continue to water but increase fertilization to every two weeks. Pinch plants in late June or early July to promote bushy growth. At this time you may also wish to repot the poinsettia. Select a pot one size larger, filling around the root ball with a good potting soil. Bring the plant indoors as temperatures fall.

The poinsettia is photoperiodic, and long nights of uninterrupted darkness encourage it to bloom. In greenhouses, growers go to great lengths to withhold light, as even small amounts can delay or stop the plant from setting bud. At home, putting the plant in the closet for 14 hours each night is your best bet. Most people get on a 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. schedule beginning on Oct. 1, and continue it for eight to 10 weeks until color shows on the bracts. Night temperatures should be no higher than 70 degrees or flowering may be delayed.

While my Mom achieved colorful bracts, the plant itself was a bit leggy and the foliage not so green. Perhaps more fertilizer and a harder pinch would have made our experiment more successful. Give it a try yourself and maybe you will have even better results!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

### ON THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

## Help a friend through 'wish box'

AGAWAM – This has been a challenging year for so many. With the pandemic, loss of jobs, health concerns and isolation, many are struggling just to make ends meet. If you know someone that may need a little help this holiday season, please submit a request to the e-mail address below, identifying their hardship and need. We will be granting three wishes this holiday season to spread goodwill

and provide them with some relief during a very trying time. Perhaps it is a rent payment they are coming up short, a heating bill, food for the holidays, gifts for the children. All entries need to be submitted by Dec. 20. Once all entries are received, we will reach out to you for their contact information to provide them assistance. Please e-mail your request to: [wishbox33@gmail.com](mailto:wishbox33@gmail.com).

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# Dan Kane & Friends performing holiday music

AGAWAM – The Agawam Cultural Council is pleased to announce the addition of a special holiday presentation to the seventeenth season lineup of its Applause Series on Friday, Dec. 18. On that date a performance of Christmas favorites and hits from the American songbook by Dan Kane and Friends originally performed on Dec. 6, 2019 at the Agawam Senior Center will be broadcast on the Town of Agawam's public access channel (Agawam TV15) at 7 p.m. and streamed from the "Watch" button on [www.agawammedia.tv](http://www.agawammedia.tv) for those residing outside of Agawam. Those who wish to watch on a smart device at a different time should email [r.kadis@comcast.net](mailto:r.kadis@comcast.net) for a link for the performance.

Dan Kane and his Singers have featured some of the best vocalists in the Pioneer Valley for more than 30 years. Their sold-out Christmas concerts at the MassMutual Center and Springfield Symphony Hall have been a tradition for countless families. They have been responsible for discovering and mentoring several of the top young voices in the valley; several of whom have gone on to Broadway, and beyond.

In lieu of the free will donations the Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) normally accepts at the conclusion of all its events, (which support fully 40% of the cost of each performance), the council asks viewers to consider making a properly "socially distanced" donation to support efforts to "Give Back to the Community" by visiting the ACC web site [www.agawamcc.org](http://www.agawamcc.org) and clicking on the green "Donate" button. A check in any amount, payable to the Agawam Cultural Council, may also be sent to: Agawam Cultural Council, Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam MA 01001.

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during the stay-at-home order, please visit their web site, [www.agawamcc.org](http://www.agawamcc.org). The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.



A special holiday performance by Dan Kane & Friends has been added to the Agawam Cultural Council's popular Applause Series on Friday, Dec. 18. Hits of the American Songbook & Christmas Favorites will be simultaneously shown on the Town of Agawam's public access channel at 7 p.m. and streamed. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## STCC class prepares students for careers in the paving industry

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College will offer an asphalt pre-apprenticeship class that paves the way for careers working in asphalt laboratories.

The 280-hour program, which runs Feb. 22 through April 23, consists of classroom work and paid, on-the-job training.

STCC President John B. Cook said, "After many, many months of planning and partnering, this represents a signature workforce training. With appreciation to our industry partners, STCC is very pleased to continue our technical mission."

Students who successfully complete the three-part pre-apprenticeship program will qualify for a paid, on-the-job-training apprenticeship program with a member of the Massachusetts Aggregate and Asphalt Pavement Association (MAAPA).

The three parts of the program are:

STCC Asphalt Academy classroom (82 Hours) which uses a state-of-art asphalt laboratory on the STCC campus. In addition, students receive career guidance, interviewing preparation and resume writing assistance that will lead to interviews with MAAPA member firms.

Four weeks of paid, on-the-job-training with a member of MAAPA. Students work with state-of-the-art equipment and experienced highway builders to increase knowledge of the industry.

The New England Transportation Technician Certification Program (NETTCP)



In this photo from March 2019, an instructor at STCC shows students how sieves work in the asphalt production process. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hot Mix Asphalt Plant Technician Certification course (37.5 Hours) and exam at the STCC Asphalt Academy and Asphalt Laboratory.

A student who completes the 280-hour Asphalt Quality Control Pre-Apprenticeship Program will be considered for enrollment in the 2,000 hour paid, on-the-job

apprenticeship program which will help enhance quality control analyst skills.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone interested in advancing in their career or starting a career in the paving industry," said David Buonora, vice president of the Workforce Development Center at STCC. "The demand for jobs in the paving

industry remains strong. Our program puts you on track to become a candidate for good-paying jobs where you work as an asphalt inspector or technician."

This training is possible through collaborative efforts with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Massachusetts Asphalt Aggregate and Asphalt Association (MAAPA) and the New England Transportation Technician Certification Program (NETTCP).

STCC is the only community college in the state with asphalt certification training, said Jim Reger, executive director of Massachusetts Aggregate and Asphalt Paving Association (MAAPA), which provided funding for the mobile lab.

"There is a tremendous need for asphalt technicians," Reger said. MAAPA represents owners and operators of hot mix batching plants and quarries in Massachusetts.

Reger explained that new specifications from MassDOT will require more licensed technicians and inspectors who will be in demand for jobs working in the field or at asphalt production facilities.

For more information about costs, the schedule and how to apply, visit [stcc.edu/wdc](http://stcc.edu/wdc) and click on the "Asphalt Quality Control Analyst" link.

For questions, contact the STCC Workforce Development Center at (413) 755-4225 or email [wdc@stcc.edu](mailto:wdc@stcc.edu). Interested in applying to STCC? Visit [stcc.edu/apply](http://stcc.edu/apply) or call Admissions at (413) 755-3333.

## Free COVID-19 vaccines at Big Y pharmacies when available

Staff report

SPRINGFIELD – In partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, all 33 Big Y Pharmacy and Wellness Centers are preparing to administer the COVID-19 vaccines once approved and available for distribution. This partnership is being established in anticipation that one or more COVID-19 vaccines will be authorized and approved for use in the United States as part of the Federal Pharmacy Partnership Strategy for COVID-19. This initiative by the HHS with pharmacies across the United States is part of the federal pharmacy program aimed to further increase access to the vaccines. The partnership has deemed pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacy interns in retail and grocery stores as being crucial public health partners for increasing access and convenience of COVID-19 vaccines.

Big Y's pharmacy team currently provides seasonal flu and other routine vaccines. They plan to participate in any additional training to ensure the safe administration of the vaccine along with

educating their customers about the process.

According to Charles L. D'Amour, president and CEO, "We are proud to partner with the United States government in order to provide free COVID-19 vaccines to our customers. When a vaccine is available, our pharmacy teams will be ready to administer them as per CDC guidelines."

Big Y Foods, Inc. is one of the largest independently owned supermarket chains in New England. Big Y operates 85 locations throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut including 71 supermarkets, Fresh Acres Market, Table & Vine Fine Wines and Liquors and 12 Big Y Express gas and convenience locations with almost 12,000 employees. Big Y has been recognized by Forbes as a Best-in-State Employer in Massachusetts and Connecticut, as well as 2018 Employer of Choice by the Employers Association of the Northeast. Founded in 1936 by brothers Paul and Gerald D'Amour, the store was named after an intersection in Chicopee, Massachusetts where two roads converge to form a "Y".

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# Schools

## Agawam High School Counseling Bulletin

### Reminders:

Members of the Class of 2021 should familiarize themselves with the information that has been posted to the Post-Secondary Planning section under the Counseling tab of the High School webpage. Most recently, the Senior College Application Packet was added, which is a great resource for students interested in applying to two- and four-year colleges. [https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded\\_file/937652/Senior\\_Application\\_Packet\\_2020-2021.pdf](https://core-docs.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/937652/Senior_Application_Packet_2020-2021.pdf)

The COVID-19 pandemic has created uncertainty among students and families about nearly all aspects of the college admission process, including the role of standardized testing. We were scheduled to host testing in November, but did not feel it was prudent to have students from “red” area and states in our building. We looked into hosting school day testing for just Agawam students, but the next available date is in March. Due to the cancellation of SAT and ACT testing dates, more than 1,630 US colleges and universities announced they are moving to a test-optional policy, and more will surely follow. By going test-optional, institutions are making a definitive statement that they will not need test scores to make admission decisions this year. Despite the change in policies, high school students and their parents are asking, “Does test optional really mean test optional?” The answer, simply put, is: YES.

Please keep in mind that some colleges may require SAT or ACT scores for certain majors and/or the awarding of merit money. We encourage you to contact any schools that are of interest to you (website, email, or phone) to confirm that test scores are not required for your intended ma-

jor and/or the awarding of merit money.

All students should be checking their Naviance accounts on a regular basis. There is so much valuable information for all students, whether you’re headed directly into the work force, the military, or college upon graduation from AHS. If you can’t access your account, please be in touch with your School Counselor.

### Open Houses/Informational Sessions/ Discovery Days:

Colleges and universities will be hosting information and recruitment events, in a variety of formats, in the next couple of months. Check the colleges’ websites for more information and to confirm the date and time of the event. While campus visits may look and feel different during this time, it is important to take advantage of these programs to learn as much as you can about the schools that are of interest to you.

### Scholarship Information:

See your counselor or visit the websites below for more information or an application.

Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC): This scholarship program offers students the opportunity to earn their degree and receive valuable leadership and management skills while enjoying the benefits of an exciting career. Several requirements exist. The deadline for applications is December 31, 2020. Please visit [public.navy.mil](http://public.navy.mil) for details.

Exceptional student leaders are invited to apply for the 2021 GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program. In honor of the legacy and character of President Ronald Reagan, this program annually rewards up to 20 college-bound students who demonstrate exemplary leadership,

drive, integrity, and citizenship with \$10,000 renewable scholarships (up to \$40,000). More information is available at [reaganfoundation.org](http://reaganfoundation.org). Applications will be accepted January 5, 2021.

The 2020 Profile in Courage Essay will be offering a first-place prize of \$10,000, a second place prize of \$3,000, and \$1,000 for five finalists. The maximum word count is 1,000 with a minimum of 700, not including citations and bibliographies. The deadline is January 15, 2021. More information is available at [jfklibrary.org/essaycontest](http://jfklibrary.org/essaycontest)

Berkshire Bank’s NeXt Gen Scholarship Program is now accepting applications for the 2020-2021 cycle. Through the program, 40 students will receive a \$2500 scholarship. These will be awarded to students who have exemplified community service through their volunteer efforts, have been successful academically, and have financial need. The application deadline is January 31, 2021. Learn more at [berkshirebank.com/scholarships](http://berkshirebank.com/scholarships)

The Beverly J. Malone Ladizki and David A. Ladizki Scholarship is available for graduating high school seniors residing in Agawam with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Applicants must be scheduled to be a full-time student at a non-profit college/university, community college, or vocational school after graduation. The awards range from \$1,000-\$3,000. To apply, please visit [hfp.org/scholarships](http://hfp.org/scholarships), scroll to select the type of college you will attend, click on “Individual Scholarship Funds at HFPG”, and then click on the link to access the Foundation’s online portal. Applications must be submitted by February 1, 2021.

The Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship application is now available! This foundation provides four-year scholarships

of \$30,000 and extensive support services, including guidance and internship placement, to highly motivated African American students. The application closes at 5 PM on February 1, 2021. Learn more at [jackierobinson.org](http://jackierobinson.org)

Big Y Scholarship applications will be accepted through February 1, 2021. The program awards over 300 scholarships each year, totaling more than \$250,000. All Big Y Scholarships recognize academic merit and achievement. Applications are available only online at [bigy.com](http://bigy.com).

Tenaska, founded in 1987, is a privately held energy company committed to being good neighbors in the communities where its plants are located. To express that commitment, scholarships are offered through the high schools located in the counties with plant operations (Berkshire Power Company in our area). Applicants must be a 2021 graduating high school senior who plan to attend a two- or four-year post-secondary education program at an accredited institution. The scholarship amount is \$1500, and applications, which are available at [Tenaska.com/scholarship-form](http://Tenaska.com/scholarship-form), are due no later than February 12, 2021.

The Asian Pacific Community Fund (APCF) has multiple scholarship awards to give to eligible high school seniors. The application on the website is not yet open, but is expected to go live on November 20. Applications are due no later than Friday, April 2, 2021. More information is available at [apcf.org/scholarships](http://apcf.org/scholarships)

The American College Foundation (ACF) is offering a Visionary Scholarship, with multiple winners selected to each receive between \$1,000 and \$5,000. The application process is quick and easy and financial need is not considered. All may apply. The application is available at Amer-

icanCollegeFoundation.org and the deadline is May 1, 2021.

The Disabled American Veterans Chapter 11, Ted Hamel Memorial Scholarship application is now available. Applicants must be a current DAV member or related to a current DAV members, such as son, daughter, grandchild, great-grandchild, nephew or niece. You must also be a high school senior or DAV member accepted to a college, trade, vocational, or technical school. You will need to have your sponsor’s name, signature, and DAV membership number. Applicants from previous years may apply each year as they proceed through their education. Applications are available in Naviance and are due by May 1, 2021.

The Wisegeek Entrepreneurship Matters Scholarship is a \$500 scholarship open to students with an entrepreneurial spirit. While not required, the program will look for candidates with a track record of overcoming challenges and a penchant for continuous growth. Applications can be completed in less than two minutes and are due by May 1, 2021.

[wise-geek.com/entrepreneurship-matters-scholarship.htm](http://wise-geek.com/entrepreneurship-matters-scholarship.htm)

The creators of the “Student Award Search Aid” website are offering the B. Davis Scholarship for 2021. Please visit [studentawardsearch.com/scholarships.htm](http://studentawardsearch.com/scholarships.htm) to read about the program and to apply for the scholarship. The amount of the award is \$1,000 and the deadline is May 24, 2021.

Applications for the WiseGeek LGBTQ+ Scholarship are now available. Students who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ Awareness community can apply for this \$500 scholarship (deadline of July 1, 2021) at [wisegeek.com/lgbtq-awareness-scholarship.htm](http://wisegeek.com/lgbtq-awareness-scholarship.htm)

## Bright Nights open later

SPRINGFIELD – Bright Nights at Forest Park has received permission from Lieutenant Governor Karen Polito to extend entry to the show until 9:30 p.m. as of Saturday, Dec. 5. The Spirit of Springfield had been allowing cars to enter Forest Park until 8:45 p.m. due to Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker’s current COVID-19 order.

“It is an extra 45 minutes of holiday cheer each night during a time when it is so needed,” said Spirit of Springfield President Judy Matt. “We want as many families as possible to fill their hearts with the warmth of the holiday season while staying safe in their car. We are grateful to have the opportunity to continue to make Bright Nights a holiday tradition for so many.”

Bright Nights at Forest Park will operate nightly through January 6, 2021, opening at 4:45 p.m. and closing the entrance at 9:30 p.m. To follow COVID-19 safety protocols, tickets must be purchased in advance, online at [bright-nights.org](http://bright-nights.org) or at Big Y World Class Markets. Visitors must stay in their vehicles at all times and wear masks when interacting with others. Restrooms are available at the entry for emergency use only.

Bright Nights’ 26th season is sponsored by AAA – Pioneer Valley, American Eagle Financial Credit Union, American Medical Response, Balise Auto, Baystate Health, Big Y World Class Markets, C & S Wholesale Grocers, Charlie Arment Trucking Inc., Comcast, Eversource Energy, Gleason Johndrow Landscaping, Health New England (HNE), iHeart Media, MassLive, MassMutual, Mercy Medical Center, MGM Springfield, MP PC, PeoplesBank, The Republican, Smith & Wesson, Springfield Thunderbirds, and WWLP-22News.

The Spirit of Springfield has been collaborating with the Springfield Department of Parks, Buildings and Recreation Management since 1995 to present Bright Nights at Forest Park. The holiday lighting experience has entertained more than six million people and this year as recognized by the American Bus Association as one of their Best of the Best in their Festival and Events category.



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# HCC launching women's leadership training program

HOLYOKE — Building on the success of its popular Women's Leadership Luncheon Series, Holyoke Community College is launching an eight-week training program for women who want to develop and enhance their leadership skills.

For convenience, the program, "Women Leaning Into Leadership 2021: Empowering Your Voice," is being offered over Zoom in two separate, eight-week sessions: One meets on Wednesdays, Jan. 6 through Feb. 24, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.; the other on Thursdays, Jan. 7 through Feb. 25, from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.

The interactive workshops will be facilitated by Annie Shibata, Ph.D., owner of Growth Mindset Leadership and Communication Coaching.

Enrollment is limited by design. In addition to weekly 90-minute group seminars, each participant can schedule a private, 30-minute session of personalized coaching with the instructor.

"One critical component that makes this training special is the one-to-one coaching that each participant receives," said Michele Cabral, HCC executive director of Business, Corporate and Professional

Development. "The small group nature of the classes will allow plenty of weekly individual attention in addition to the private sessions. This is really a wonderful way for women to invest in themselves and their futures in a small, mentored group environment."

During the program sessions, participants will learn to evaluate their communication skills and apply new communication techniques; practice the power of mindfulness; distinguish forms of influence and persuasion to create powerful messages; assess their leadership strengths; and create short- and long-term plans for career development.

Shibata was the featured presenter during the November session of HCC's 2020 Women's Leadership Luncheon Series.

"HCC started the Women's Leadership Series with the goal of creating small group discussions for women as they navigate their careers," said Cabral. "The series meets monthly over Zoom at lunchtime as a way to offer networking and mentoring to women at all levels. The 'Women Leaning Into Leadership' course takes that concept to the next level."



Annie Shibata will lead a workshop on leadership for women. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Obituary

### James Cheney

James Ellsworth Cheney, of Eastham, Massachusetts, passed away at home on November 27, 2020, after a long illness. He was born to James and Marion (Richards) Cheney on May 25, 1935, in Springfield, MA, and spent his childhood in Agawam. He graduated from Agawam High School in 1953, and entered the Marine Corps Reserve, in which he served for many years. He settled with his former wife Barbara Danenza in Chicopee, where they raised their son James, and daughter Denise. Later, he and his present wife Patri-

cia Cheney purchased the Colony Motel in Whately, where they spent many years, eventually retiring on the Cape. He was predeceased by his parents, sister Carolyn LaFleur, brother Edward Tourtelotte, and his son James Cheney. He is survived by his wife Patricia, daughter Denise Ducharme and her husband Dean, and their children Danielle and Dayton, son Fred Cheney of Brewster, MA and Texas, James Cheney of Montague, MA and Romania, and lastly his loving sister Barbara Cheney McInerney of Medfield, MA. He also leaves many nieces and nephews. Please visit Bartlett1620.com for remembrances.



# Volunteers lay wreaths at Veterans Cemetery

AGAWAM — On an overcast morning, Saturday, Dec. 12, volunteers gathered to lay wreaths at the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam. The job was done with a group of 16 volunteers who put out 52 wreaths, a number that unfortunately keeps growing each year.

Wreaths are lined up to be distributed to veterans' graves. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Many volunteers made their way to Agawam Veteran's Cemetery to lay wreaths.

The wreath-laying during the holidays has become a yearly tradition, and despite the pandemic, 2020 was no different.



## ARREST LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 325 calls for service from Dec. 7 to Dec. 13 and recorded the following arrests. No arrests in the public log have been omitted. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

**Saturday, Dec. 12**

Michael D. Milotte, 34, of 40 Hunting Lane, Agawam, was arrested at 1:08 a.m. on a warrant.

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# SPORTS

## HOCKEY

# No locker rooms, scrums in hockey modifications

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – The parking lots at Olympia Ice Center and Fitzpatrick Rink could be very crowded this winter with students being forced to change outdoors as part of the modifications made to ice hockey for the 2020-2021 season.

High school guidelines from the office of Energy and Environmental Affairs required locker rooms to be closed at ice hockey arenas.

The only reason the locker rooms can be used is for players to use the bathroom and sinks. "Participants must wear-in/wear-out clothes or dress in the parking

lot or other designated area," the guidelines state.

The change is to limit close contact among teammates due to locker rooms being very congested spaces with a lot of pads and equipment taking up even more space.

One change for hockey versus other sports is the ability for players to wear gaiters on the ice. Typically, face coverings for players and fans alike in most sports requires a mask that has loops that go over the ear, securely covering the mouth and nose. Hockey players are allowed to wear gaiters, which were viewed as less secure by some. Gaiter will be allowed for hockey players provided they

are multi-ply.

One of the tougher parts to comply with is the fact only 20 players will be allowed to dress for the game, and some extended bench areas will be needed for both teams in order to social distance enough. Typically, 22 players are allowed on the roster for varsity games. Only three coaches will be allowed on benches for games, though that is close to average for most hockey teams.

Having more than one player in the penalty box will also be a new challenge as only one player is allowed in the penalty box at a time. According to the guidelines, other spaces must be designated for players to serve penalties.

"One person in the penalty box at a time," the guidelines state. "If another player must be in a designated 'auxiliary box/location,' they must be social distanced either outside the penalty box or in the bench area as close to the penalty box as possible; when possible the second and or subsequent penalized players must move to the penalty box upon the exit of the previously penalized player."

There is in option for subsequent players to serve penalties on their bench if necessary.

The biggest change fans will notice with play on the ice is the elimination of "scrums." These are plays typically when multiple

players go after a loose puck in a corner of the ice. They usually take place on either side of the goal.

The guidelines only allow for one player from each team to be involved in a scrum. Once a third player joins, play must be stopped by the referee. Play also will be stopped if the scrum lasts more than five seconds.

High schools played fall sports in geographically-formed leagues in order to limit contact between too many schools. The plan will be similar for hockey, but leagues will look different because there are fewer teams. There were also no restrictions placed on co-op programs and they will be allowed to play.

## SOCCER

# Kolodziej steps down as Pioneers GM

*Mutiny GM Ferrara takes helm*

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW — Along with being the longtime boys' varsity soccer coach at Ludlow High School, Greg Kolodziej has also been the General Manager of the Western Mass. Pioneers for more than ten years.

Kolodziej recently stepped down as the Pioneers G.M. due to personal reasons.

"I'm excited about some new challenges that lie ahead," Kolodziej said. "I hope to spend more time on the soccer field doing what I enjoy most, coaching kids, and assisting and encouraging them to be good students so once they get through the graduation line, they are ready to do good, positive things in life."

Kolodziej is still planning to continue coaching the boys' varsity soccer team at his alma mater in the fall of 2021. He also coaches a Western United Pioneers squad.

Joe Ferrara, who like Kolodziej is a lifelong resident of Ludlow, has been named as the new Gen-

eral Manager of the Western Mass. Pioneers. He's also the owner of the New England Mutiny and is the Commissioner of the United Women's Soccer League.

"The Pioneers have a great support staff and the Mutiny also have a great support staff, so I think I'll be able to run both organizations without very much difficulty," Ferrara said. "The biggest challenge right now is that we still don't know what's going to be happening next spring."

The Pioneers and the Mutiny, who both play their home matches at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow, didn't play any matches in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're hoping to have a season next year, but we're planning for several different scenarios," Ferrara said. "A normal regular season, a shortened season, a season without fans, or no season at all."

Before Kolodziej stepped down from his position, he and



Greg Kolodziej, long-time general manager of the Western Mass. Pioneers, has stepped down. FILE PHOTOS

Ferrara shared the same office at Lusitano Stadium.

"I do have a lot of respect for Greg and his family," Ferrara said. "I would like to meet with him about the Pioneers."

The Pioneers, who had a very successful 2019 campaign, are coached by Federico Molinari.

"Federico is a very good soccer coach," Ferrara said. "I'm looking forward to working with him on a daily basis."

The Pioneers assistant coaches are Dennis Gomes, Jay Willis, and John Voight.

The Pioneers are members of the USL 2 League and compete in the Northeast Division of the Eastern Conference.

The USL 2 League G.M. meetings are normally held in Florida in December, but they're going to be held virtual in January. The 2021 schedule will be released at that time.

The Pioneers qualified to play

PIONEERS | page 9

## RACING



Woody Pitkat was a big winner at the Sunoco World Series event. FILE PHOTOS

# Seekonk Speedway announces events for next season

SEEKONK – Seekonk Speedway is looking ahead to a fresh, exciting 2021 season. On Dec. 3, the Massachusetts third-mile announced the full schedule of events for 2021 -- one that will mark the 75th anniversary of full-time racing. Seekonk Speedway looks forward to welcoming fans back to the grandstands safely, as the recent vaccine announcements for COVID-19 are welcomed news and talks continue with the state of Massachusetts.

Multiple major events headline the 2021 schedule -- including the ISMA Supermodified and Boston Louie NEMA Midget and NEMA Lite Races (June 9), the annual \$10,000 to win Open Wheel Wednesday headlined by the Tri Track Open Modified Series (June 30), the inaugural \$10,000 to win Bay State Summer Classic with the PASS Pro Stocks (July 28), the annual DAV Fall Classic (Sept. 24 to 25) and the

SPEEDWAY | page 9



Christopher Buffone, of Belchertown, was also a champion last season.



Kolodziej will remain as coach of Ludlow High School boys soccer.



The New England Mutiny and Western Mass. Pioneers share a home stadium now. Mutiny owner Joe Ferrara was named the Pioneers GM.

Sports

SPEEDWAY ■ from page 8

Haunted Hundred, headlined by Tri Track (Oct. 23).

The slate includes 18 Saturday Night Showdowns -- showcasing Seekonk's premiere Pro Stocks, Everett's Auto Parts Late Models, Helger's South Coast Power Equipment Sportsman and Chaz Auto Body Sport Trucks. It will also see the return of the Fast Friday Series -- with 16 events for the Nick's Pit Stop Legends Cars, Helger's Pure Stocks, Sport 4's and Seekonk Grand Prix Bandoleros. Seekonk is pleased to welcome back all divisions and their sponsors, while adding Chaz Auto Body to the team of division sponsors.

With COVID-19 shutting down Saturday night competition and Thrill Shows in 2020, and only Fast Friday drivers hitting the track due to regulations from the state of Massachusetts to stop the spread of the virus, it's only fitting that the 75th anniversary be celebrated in 2021. Seekonk's Fast Friday classes ran a 10-race slate in front of no spectators in 2020, however, they continued to showcase youth talent and some of the best racing Seekonk offers through the track's YouTube channel.

"Our schedule includes a bit of something for everyone who is a race fan in the region," Ed St. Germain, Director of Business Development at Seekonk Speedway, said. "We're excited for all of our special events, but above all, we can't wait to welcome back our great fans and get our premiere Saturday night divisions back on the track in 2021."

The season opens with two Test and tune sessions on April 10 and 24, while opening weekend returns on Saturday and Sunday, May 1-2. Saturday will include the Classic Car Show and Swap Meet fans have come to love, with burn out drags and race practice. On Sunday, May 2, the engines fire in a race competition for the first time with the Pro Stocks, Late Models, Sportsman, Trucks and Spectator Drags. The season rolls from this starting point in May all the way through October, with more than 45 events planned.

Of the touring divisions included, two of them will visit Seekonk more than once -- with the prestigious Tri Track Open Modified Series bringing their top Modified talent for Open Wheel Wednesday (June 30) and the Haunted Hundred (October 23). Both races have a large purse and always attract the best Modified talent in the region. New for 2021, the American Canadian Tour (ACT) will also join the Haunted Hundred, along with the return of the Pro All Star Series (PASS) Super Late Models. All three races as part of the season-finale will be 100 laps, matching the Haunted "Hundred" name.

PASS, New England's premier touring Super Late Model division, will return to Seekonk for three events overall in 2021 -- including the big \$10,000 to win race on Wednesday, July 28. PASS will also help headline the two races that will close the season -- the annual Fall Classic, with a 150-lapper on Sept. 25, and the Haunted Hundred.

The track welcomes back five Thrill Shows to the schedule -- with a show for Memorial Day (May 29), Independence Day (July 3), Mid-Summer Spectacular (July 31), Labor Day (Sept. 4) and the Pumpkin Smash (Oct. 9). Note that all Thrill Shows are on Saturday night's -- giving weekly competitors the night off. There will also be a special event on Sunday, Aug. 8 -- headlined by the return of Monster Trucks and the first ever Spectator Drag race -- where drivers will double up and actually race for multiple laps together on the track, instead of just in a one-on-one format.

As part of the weekly slate, track champions will be crowned in all nine divisions. Championship battles for all divisions except the Pro Stocks will include as part of the DAV Fall Classic weekend on Sept. 24 and 25, as the Fall Classic returns to a two-day race format, with a practice session on Thursday night, Sept. 23. The Pro Stock title battle wraps on Saturday, Sept. 18, on Ocean State Oil Night, allowing drivers to compete with PASS at the Fall Classic.

The Phil's Propane Triple Crown Series returns after a year off due to COVID, with a three-race, extra distance, set of races for all of Seekonk's divisions. The Pro Stock Triple Crown Series races will be 60 laps, while the Late

Models will shift to 45 laps. The Sportsman and Sport Trucks remain at 35, while the Pure Stocks, Sport 4's and Legends Cars are set for 30. As always, the Seekonk Grand Prix Bandolero division runs 15 laps for all of their events, but will also crown a Triple Crown champion.

Phil's Propane Triple Crown Series Dates:  
Pro Stocks: June 5, July 16, Aug. 21  
Late Models: May 22, June 26, Aug. 21  
Sportsman: May 15, June 19, Aug. 21  
Sport Trucks: May 8, June 12, Aug. 21  
Legends Cars: June 25, July 30, Aug. 20  
Pure Stocks: June 18, July 16, Aug. 20  
Sport 4: June 11, July 23, Aug. 20  
Bandolero: June 4, July 9, Aug. 20

The Everett's Auto Parts Diamond Races are on the schedule, with three special events for the Pro Stocks and the Late Models. All of these races will be 50 laps for both divisions, including a night where both classes run the 50's on Saturday, Aug. 14.

Everett's Auto Parts Diamond Race Dates:  
Pro Stocks: June 26, July 24, Aug. 14  
Late Models: June 19, July 17, Aug. 14

The Troy City Tactical Spectator Drag Series is back, with drivers set to compete in a 10-race series starting on May 2 and ending on Oct. 9. In the middle, drivers will thrill fans in front of both Saturday night crowds and Thrill Show fans.

The Power 5 Series will return for Helger's Southcoast Power Equipment Sportsman, with five races set for 30 laps instead of 25, with a bit of extra purse money on the line courtesy of Helger's. Sponsorship is available for Power 5 races for the remainder of Seekonk's Saturday night divisions.

The schedule also includes the special returns of Military Night, Youth Sports Night, the STAR and NEAR Antique Racer divisions, R.I. Shriners Night (with Trike Races), Fans on Parade, Scout Night, the Pit Party, Phil's Propane night, Helger's Southcoast Power Equipment night and the annual Fan Appreciation night sponsored by Everett's Auto Parts.

Seekonk looks forward to welcoming back a long list of supporters for the 2021 season, and can't thank those who stepped up in 2020 enough. See below for a full list of 2021 sponsors to this point:

Everetts Auto Parts, Helger's Southcoast Power Equipment, Phil's Propane, Ocean State Oil, Solar Therapeutics, PEPSI, T. Moreshead Landscaping, Sunoco Race Fuels, American Racer, Elmwood Dodge, Bristol Toyota, First Ford, Troy City Tactical, Shriners Childrens Hospital, Roger Williams Zoo, Precision Harley Davidson, Columbus Energies, Chick Fil A, Seekonk Grand Prix, Chaz Auto Body, Nick Lascuola Racing, Lambert Brothers Racing, Spring Villa Memory Care, Viper Graphics, Nick's Pit Stop, Nat's Racing Engines, KC's Burger Bar, Miller Brewing, Coors Light, WCTK Cat Country, Four Town Farms

The full schedule is subject to change.

Seekonk Speedway will release additional updates about the 2021 season when available. For more information, follow the track on all social media channels and visit seekonkspeedway.com. Please stay tuned for ticket release dates for advanced purchase.

Fans should keep a lookout for new episodes of the Seekonk Speedway podcast series over the winter months, giving you a step back in time, a view of the present and a look into the future.

Senior photos from fall season wanted

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

The fall season is nearing its end and Turley Publications has been all over the action.

But with this unpredictable season there have been temporary or in some cases, permanent stoppages in play, and we still want to help feature your athletes, especially those who are seniors this year.

We continue to ask for help on this season in order to bring the best coverage we can possibly manage and fill our pages with names and color.

We know that fans will be limited to the home crowds, but that is where you all come in.

If you attended any senior games and would like to see those photos in our papers, we welcome submitted photos from those events and information about graduating seniors who participated in Fall I sports.

We also welcome any additional information about other major achievements. Send any and all information and photos for inclusion to sports@turley.com.

PIONEERS ■ from page 8

in the U.S. Open Cup last year, which was canceled. They're hoping to play in the 2021 Open Cup tournament.

"It'll be great if we do play in the Open Cup next year," Ferrara said. "It gives the smaller clubs the chance to play with the big boys."

The Mutiny had played games in several different communities before coming to Ludlow in 2019.

"Being able to have the Mutiny play home matches at Lusitano Stadium is very special to me," Ferrara said. "I played games there when I was in high school and the atmosphere is great at the Stadium."

The Mutiny celebrated their 20th anniversary in 2019 and Ferrara has only missed one match since he formed the team in 1999.

After taking a year off from soccer for the first time in many years, Ferrara is ready to watch both of his soccer teams play next summer.

"Last summer was the first time in 20 years that I wasn't involved in soccer and it was refreshing. Soccer seasons can be a grind at times, especially when you're not succeeding on the field," Ferrara said. "I'm ready to go now and the players are also ready to get back on the field again."

While the 2020 United Women's Soccer League regular season was canceled, a couple of showcase tournaments were held in Michigan and Florida last summer.

The Mutiny, who are members UWS Eastern Conference, do have several players from Western Mass. listed on their roster.

"Having the local soccer players play for the Mutiny really means a lot to me," Ferrara said. "It's nice to have players from Granby, Monson, Agawam, and Ludlow on the team. We're represented by ten communities in Western Massachusetts. There are a lot of talented high school girls' soccer players from this area."

Several Mutiny players have been signed with N.W.S.L. and a few have played for professional teams in Europe.

Jill Serafino is the Mutiny General Manager and Jeb Booth is planning on returning as the Mutiny head coach in 2021.

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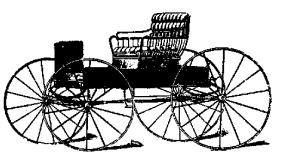
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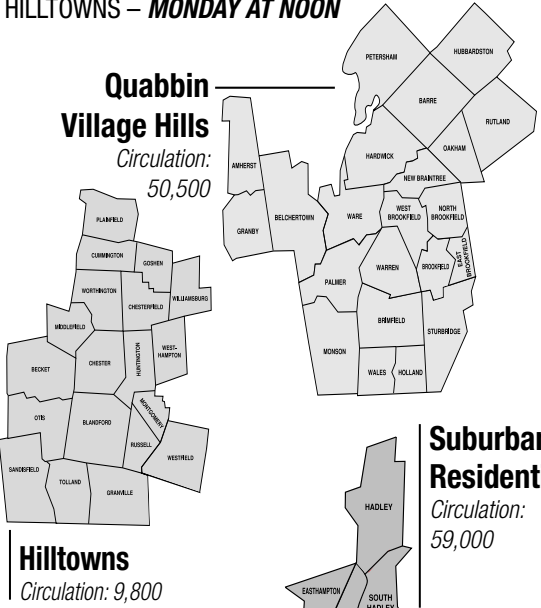
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CATEGORY:			
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5	6	7	8
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13	14	15	16
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21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
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## FOR RENT



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## Classified Advertising DEADLINES

**QUABBIN & SUBURBAN FRIDAY AT NOON**

**HILLTOWNS MONDAY AT NOON**

# Public Notices

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD20P2058EA Estate of:**

**Dorothy O Barrett Also known as: Dorothy Barrett Date of Death: 10/30/2020 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Donald C Barrett, Jr.** of Washington, DC requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Donald C Barrett, Jr.** of Washington, DC be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised** administration.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the**

**return day of 01/04/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the

Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 04, 2020  
**Suzanne T. Seguin**  
Register of Probate  
12/17/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD20C0210CA In the matter of: Joseph Michael Garner CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME A Petition to Change**

**Name of Minor** has been filed by **Joseph Michael Garner of Agawam, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Joseph Kevin Garner IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/05/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: December 08, 2020  
**Suzanne T. Seguin**  
Register of Probate  
11/17/2020

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

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# HCC literacy specialist starts 'See More Smiles' accessible face mask campaign

**HOLYOKE** – As the pandemic wore on with no end in sight, Jackie Santana grew more and more frustrated.

The proliferation of masks and other face coverings to help stop the spread of COVID-19 had made daily life much more difficult for her, a deaf woman who depends on lip-reading as well as sign language to communicate.

This was particularly apparent in places like grocery stores, where cashiers sometimes got angry when they couldn't understand her or she couldn't understand them. Some outright refused to write down what they were trying to say.

A Springfield resident, Santana wrote about her experiences in the spring newsletter published by the Holyoke Community College Ludlow Area Adult Learning Center, where she is a student.

"People sometimes use pantomimes or gestures to get my attention," she wrote. "But it's hard with those masks. Hearing people don't realize when they have their masks on, they're covering their mouths, and they don't realize how important it is for deaf people to see them talking."

She explored buying masks with clear mouth windows, but the companies that manufacture them were all sold out at the time. With some 48 million deaf or hard of hearing people in the United States, according to statistics, demand had outstripped supply.

"It would be nice to have more masks that let you see people's lips," Santana wrote.

Enter Ash Aliengena, a literacy specialist at HCC's Ludlow Adult Area Learning Center.

Inspired by Santana's essay, Aliengena decided to start making masks with clear plastic windows and created a website offering free accessible face mask patterns, where people can



A mask campaign has started at HCC to get more "smiles" out. SUBMITTED PHOTO

"Click. Print. Cut. Trace. Go."

Aliengena's "See More Smiles" campaign is a collaboration with HCC's Office for Students with Disabilities & Deaf Services (OSDDS), which is helping to spread the word.

To date, Aliengena, who uses the pronouns they/them, has hand-sewn more than 60 masks and given most of them away to people they work with at the center and to public school teachers in Holyoke.

"Jackie's essay opened my eyes to the need for window-ed masks," Aliengena said. "Her self-advocacy got the whole thing started."

Aliengena started by researching existing mask patterns and then created an original design that uses clear, heavy plastic for the mouth window. The patterns and instructions are available for free on the See More Smiles website Aliengena maintains. There are patterns for both adult and child sizes along with photographs of finished products. The patterns print true to size on standard 8.5 by 11-inch copy paper or card stock so they can easily be cut out and traced onto fabric.

"I feel great about this project," Santana said recently. "I think it is a great idea."

As far as the effectiveness of masks with plastic windows to combat the spread of COVID-19, David Aronoff,

director of infectious disease at the Vanderbilt Institute for Infection, Immunology and Inflammation, recently told National Public Radio that the virus cannot penetrate plastic or solid materials, "so see-through masks provide potentially a great option for balancing infection prevention with the desire to be able to see somebody's mouth move."

Aliengena gave one of the windowed masks to HCC president Christina Royal. She wore it recently on a visit to the dentist, where it drew a lot of attention from office

staff, who asked for the link to the "See More Smiles" website, [hcc.edu/see-more-smiles](http://hcc.edu/see-more-smiles).

Royal said Aliengena's masks are a "great reflection of universal design principles" – an accommodation beneficial for deaf and hearing people alike.

"Windowed or clear face masks allow everyone to see and read each other's mouths – to speech-read," said Aliengena, who lives in Holyoke. "These masks are intended to restore important modes of visual and emotional communication that get lost when we cover our faces with solid masks."

Those visual and emotional cues, like seeing people smile, can make a world of difference.

"For certain populations visual communication is even more important: the elderly, children, language learners, and those in mental health crises are just a few examples," they said. "For members of the deaf and hard of hearing community, visual communication is absolutely central. So, when the pandemic started, millions of people who rely on seeing faces and mouths suddenly lost their primary mode of communicating with the hearing population overnight, just like that."

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